

Design Tools for Developing Web Pages

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Hypertext Markup Language (html) is the language of the World Wide Web (www). It is easily read, but it is very tricky because of the many embedded codes that must be included. These codes are the instructions that cause a web page to be displayed in the desired manner and with the desired graphics, links, and other display properties. Learning html codes and how to apply them can be a very time-consuming task. Fortunately, there are tools that enable the writing of web pages without the concern of the underlying html code.

There are many such tools available with individual merits and shortcomings. The web page developer should be comfortable with using the chosen tool that gives the desired results. For the beginner, two tools are available that the majority of users can learn quickly.

The first of these is Microsoft Word 97. Since so many people already know how to use this word processor, it is a simple matter to learn to write web pages with it. Microsoft Word 97 has built in tools to set up web functions. Using these tools the page appears to the user while it is being developed as it will appear in its final form on the web. The document is saved as type html.

Another easy to use tool that has more advanced html features is Microsoft FrontPage. If the user is already a Microsoft Word 97 user, FrontPage appears very familiar. The interface is much like Word 97, but there are additional html-specific tools. As in Word 97 the page appears as it is being developed as it will appear on the web. FrontPage also allows the viewing and editing of the actual html code for the more sophisticated user.